

surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into [a] an unsintered cylindrical varistor body;

coating [envelop] envelope surfaces of the unsintered varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a high-resistance material by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and sintering the coated varistor body.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the [envelop] envelope surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the [envelop] envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO_2 , LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3 .

Clean copy of amended claims:

5. A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and an envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelop surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into an unsintered cylindrical varistor body;

coating envelope surfaces of the unsintered varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a

high-resistance material by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and
sintering the coated varistor body.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the envelope surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

7. The method according to claim 5, wherein the envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO_2 , LiO_2 or Cr_2O_3 .

Remarks:

Claims 5-8 are now pending in this application. Applicants have amended claims 5-7 to correct a typographical error. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

Applicants have overcome the Examiner's objection to claims 5-7 by correcting the spelling of envelope. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. patent 4,692,735 to Shoji et al.

Shoji et al. does not disclose the present invention since, among other things, Shoji et al.